Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Orissa to check the recurrence of Flood in the State particularly in the districts of Bhadrak and Balasore.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (BHADRAK): Sir, in the recent floods and cyclone in the districts of Bhadrak and Balasore of Orissa, hundreds of villages situated near the railway lines between Sabira and Markona Railway Stations of Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railways bore the brunt of the flood water of unprecedented magnitude due to the less drainage of water in the rivers bridges of Kansbans, PITAKALIA and BARGODIA. Had there been additional spans of these bridges constructed after the cyclone and floods of 1971, the losses of the people living nearby villages could have been minimised. Hence, additional spans may kindly be constructed by the Railway Administration immediately to save the people.

In the National Highway Number 5 in between Soro and Jamujhad, repeatedly there have been breaches caused by these above-mentioned rivers due to less drainage system. The bridge constructed over the river Kansbans is not providing sufficient vent for the flood water to pass. Hence, the additional spans may kindly be constructed to save the people living beside the National Highway No.5 in this locality.

There have been provided escape points over Kanti Nala on the left side of the river Baitarani under Akhuapada irrigation sub division of Jajpur Irrigation Division to provide protections to 15 Gram Panchayats under BHANDARIPOKHARI and Dham Nagar Panchayat Samitis of Bhadrak district of the State. Because there is an extra gap of 2240 ft. from the Kanti escape to existing irrigation embankment, it causes severe devastation during high floods. Hence, this gap should immediately be closed by constructing earthen embankment or by providing rubble embankment of four feet height. At the same time, the crest level of Kanti escape should be raised by three feet more. This is badly essential to provide protection to the people of the 15 Gram Panchayats.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide necessary financial assistance to the Government of Orissa for this purpose.

15.00 hrs.